

THE Bloomfield Record

A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

S. MORRIS HULIN, Proprietor.
Office 29 Broad Street.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1897.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE.

A regular meeting of the Township Committee was held on Monday night. The roll call showed all members present.

Richard Handy, manager of the Scho Park and Improvement Company, appeared before the Committee in regard to an extension of the water, light and sewer service through the proposed streets in that locality.

It was stated by Mr. Handy that a meeting of the Company was held on Thursday, at which time the improvements were decided upon. The President of the Company is Abram S. Hewitt, and prominent officials of the Erie Railroad are also interested in the Company, which proposes to transform the wild and neglected appearance of this section of the township into a park. The Company owns about 150 acres, of which 53 acres lie in Bloomfield and the remainder in Belleville Township. This property has been surveyed and mapped out in building plots and will be laid out upon a park plan. The Erie Railroad Company will erect a \$3000 station, near where the signal tower is now located, for the accommodation of the people who are expected to reside in the park. This will go away with the Orchard street and Scho stations.

An important feature of the plans of the Company is the extension of Montgomery street from its present terminus at Willet street in a direct line to the proposed new station. About \$200,000 will be spent to improve the property. The streets will be paved with asphalt, and 2,500 trees will be planted this year. The Company has the capital and intend to spend it liberally. They intend to lay water mains and have the Orange water served by meter. Application will be made to the incoming Legislature to have this section of Belleville Township become a part of Bloomfield Township. Four fifths of the property owners desire such change to be made. The Belleville Township Committee will not oppose this proposed improvement before the Legislature. The Company intend to grade the sewer system to Montgomery street, where they have a fall of eight feet to connect with the Orange outlet sewer.

Chairman Stout said that the Committee were willing to do all in their power to encourage this public improvement, but that there were some legal questions to be considered pending an extension of the sewer system in another municipality.

This question was referred to the Legal and Finance Committee for a report at an early date.

Mr. Fisher, Chairman of the Road Committee, informed his colleagues that the Contractor had not completed the road work within the time specified in the contract which was October 1st. The work on Franklin street is incomplete. Nothing has been done for two weeks. The men refused to work because they have received no pay in six weeks. The Contractor received 90 per cent when the road was completed. Austin Place has not been completed to the satisfaction of the officials. Clerk Johnson was instructed to notify Contractor Schouler and his bondsmen that if the work is not resumed in five days the town will complete the work at his expense.

The ordinance was passed without opposition, providing for the grading of the sidewalk on the southerly side of Belleville Avenue from Elm to Oak streets, comprising the Schuyler and Barrett properties.

Mr. Albion inquired whether the Orange Water Company were obliged to place water meters when requested to do so. Three cases were brought to his attention where the Company refused to place meters. Ellor Bros. & Hall, hat factory on Prospect street, National Label Press, on Myrtle Avenue, and Allan Andrews, residence on Grace street were mentioned. This matter was referred to the Water Committee for investigation.

A petition was received from the property owners on Harrison street, north of Newark Avenue to the Belleville line, for an extension of the sewer system. Referred to the Sewer Committee.

Mr. Lawrence said that contracts for sewer work had been given out which could not be completed this year.

Clerk Johnson read a petition signed by a large number of prominent residents of the Watessing section of the township, requesting an appointment to one of the vacancies existing on the police force. This was placed on file.

Chairman Moore of the Police Committee, recommended that the office of Superintendent of Police be established and that Collector J. Howard Hardcastle be appointed Chief, at a

salary of \$25 per month. Also that Lawrence H. Shorter be promoted from a special policeman to the regular force. This order to take effect immediately. Charles A. Venner and Elmer Hawhurst were appointed special policemen. Before the vote was taken Mr. Albion desired a little information in regard to Mr. Hawhurst.

Mr. Lawrence said that he had known him ever since he resided in Bloomfield and that he had never heard anything detrimental to his character. The recommendation and appointments were confirmed without any opposition.

A communication was received from Township Counsel Woodruff, of East Orange, in regard to the assessment of the property known as the Disposal Works, on Glenwood Avenue. He claimed that this property was used for public purposes and therefore exempt from taxation. Counsel Hawthorne concurred in this opinion and the tax for 1896-97 will be cancelled.

Mr. Albion said that the Committee had no jurisdiction in regard to laying out of Essex Avenue to conform with, as requested by F. W. Osborne, but that it was a case for the Surveyors of Highways to consider.

Mr. Fisher reported that he had placed an order for two hundred street signs and was authorized to increase the order if necessary. The signs adopted are of a neat pattern and when placed in position on the old gas lamp posts can be read by the wayfarer when approaching from any direction.

Sealed proposals were received for grading Spruce Street, from Beach Street to Belleville Avenue. The amount of material to be moved is 3,400 cubic yards. Twelve bids were received as follows:

J. H. Smith, 24 cts. cubic yd.
John E. Greening, Orange, 23 " "
A. L. Taylor, Bloomfield, 27 " "
H. J. Ashley, Bloomfield, 26 " "
N. J. Solinsky, Newark, 23 " "
Chas. Beyer, Bloomfield, 27 " "
Gosley Bennett, 35 " "
A. P. Campbell, 25 " "
W. J. Barnett, 24 " "
Joseph Baldwin, 36 " "
John Doherty, Newark, 23 " "
James Smith, Newark, 24 " "

These bids were referred to the Road Committee.

Clerk Johnson informed the Committee that the awards for the Beach Street extension had been paid with the exception of the Morris Canal and Banking Company, who refused to receive the amount of ten cents which was awarded to them for the Beach Street extension.

Essex Avenue.

The Township Committee have made a decided improvement by cutting down the "woods" that had grown up at the side of the street between Osborn and Benson Streets, and filling in the same with stones and gravel taken from the Broad Street sewer excavation. On the Glen Ridge side a similar work should now be done by the Borough Road Committee.

A request was made to the Bloomfield Committee by Mr. F. W. Osborn, and acted upon at the last meeting with reference to the "relaying" of Essex Avenue to a uniform width. The Committee decided that it was a matter outside their jurisdiction, that it was something for the Surveyors of Highways to consider.

This leads us to observe that as long ago as 1869 or '70 a street or avenue was planned on a comprehensive scale, the same being an extension of State Street north to Bay Lane. The Surveyors of Highways should have been called at that time, and a fine avenue opened through before the Railroad Company acquired right of way. Had that been done a much-needed straight avenue 66 feet wide, from Park Avenue to Bay Lane and continued a short distance beyond to Broad Street, would have resulted, making one of the finest of street improvements. The property owners attempted to agree among themselves to open such a street, but the trifling expense of arranging with a single owner who had bought a lot and built a small house on Osborn Street stood in the way, and stopped the improvement then. But William A. Benson and Charles H. Osborn determined to wait no longer for what seemed desirable to them, and thus accordingly opened a short street 66 feet wide from Osborn to Benson Street. After this had been done and fences set, a street was similarly opened from Bay Lane to Osborn Street 66 feet in width. To avoid the lot and house on Osborn Street, the street last opened was carried several feet west of the lines of the short street before mentioned.

Now that permanent city improvements are being made, the streets and sidewalks graded, etc., the mistake of many years ago becomes painfully apparent. A number of houses have lately been built on Essex Avenue, consequently it is impossible to relay it without the machinery of the Road Surveyors. If they are called it should be for the purpose of laying

a street, as originally intended, giving the public the benefit of an avenue, with slight angles in it, extending from Park Avenue north, under the railroad thence to Upper Broad Street. Taking a broad view of public improvements this should be done. The expense of a railroad bridge or stone archway would be considerable but in regard to such matters as removing an obstruction to Newark Avenue, and opening Beach Street the community has been liberal. As the town grows, streets, avenues and bridges become more imperatively necessary.

The object of this article is to show that if anything is done with Essex Avenue as it now exists, it should be made an avenue in reality. Broad Street, the crooked "cow path" of ancient times, is too narrow and too much given up to trolley cars, to bear solemn and tenements to afford either a safe or pleasant thoroughfare for people who drive or walk from Upper Broad Street to the Centre. Essex Avenue, opened through from Park Avenue to Broad Street, would be in effect both the straightening and relieving of Broad Street. Let the Township Committee and other citizens interested in public improvements consult a map of Bloomfield as its streets are now marked thereon. They will see that "Essex Avenue" is unfinished, and about half a mile in length. All that is needed is to extend it from Bay Lane to Broad Street at the upper end, and from Benson Street to Park Avenue at the other, when it would be completed and become an "avenue" in reality as well as name. With an asphalt pavement it would be adopted to light carriages and afford the wheelman and wheel woman one fine street free from dust. The cost of it, including a tunnel under the railroad embankment, would more than disappear in the enhanced value of building property, now paying taxes without any return.

Mr. Hardcastle's Two Offices.

The appointment of Collector J. Howard Hardcastle by the Township Committee to the office of Superintendent of Police has awakened considerable comment and criticism. From the Republican political machine point of view, the appointment is consistent and wise, one altogether to be expected. No matter what the Republican party stood for in the old days, it stands now for centralization, consolidation, monopoly. There is no concealing this, no denying it. And these ends are best gained, not by multiplying offices but by reducing the number, particularly of departmental heads. The less number of these, both elective and appointive, the less expense in running the political machinery, and the less danger of defeat in case matters are subjected to "the voting kings."

Looking at the appointment another way, the criticism is made that the office of Chief of Police should have gone, by promotion, to some one of the policemen who had proved himself efficient and worthy of promotion. The objection to this we have not heard stated by anybody, so that possibly the only objection is that it would have been—"unrepublican."

Inquiry made of Mr. Hardcastle himself elicits the information that the additional office and emoluments were not of his seeking or asking, that no one of the Township Committee desired to be Chief of Police or had the time to attend to the duties of such official. Somebody is called constantly at the Centre who can attend to the license fee business and have immediate and direct communication with the policeman. For these reasons chiefly the Committee decided upon the appointment of Mr. Hardcastle.

Aside from objections made on the score of centralizing machine government in the town, that is sure to lead to misrule sooner or later, the appointment of Mr. Hardcastle as Superintendent of Police at a moderate compensation seems to be in the line of progress and economy. Progress in Bloomfield municipal affairs demands that if taxes are to be lowered next year from the high-up 3.03 per cent, it must come through cutting down contingent expenses. The Collector can perform the duties required as Police Superintendent for a less compensation than any competent man would be willing to accept. A promoted policeman would require a salary as Chief or Superintendent at least equal to that he now receives, and such promotion would therefore mean another policeman and an additional salaried office.

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you can obtain through

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Telephone Company.

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8 Erie St., Jersey City

160 Market St., Newark

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SPECIAL FLOOR PAINT.

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It dries with a gloss.

It is put up full measure.

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Lime, Cement, Brick, Blue Stone, Drain Pipe, Fire Lining, Lath, Plaster and Nails.

Oats, Corn, Bran, Meal, Feed, Cut Hay, Peat Moss, Pratt's Feed.

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2 Montgomery Street and Canal.

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30 cents per quart, 1.20 per gallon.

GLEN RIDGE BOROUGH.

Adjournment of Tax Sale.

Notice is hereby given that the sale for taxes for 1895 in the Borough of Glen Ridge stands adjourned until October 21 1897, at the Council rooms on Ridge Road Avenue at 10 o'clock A. M.

FRANK S. HENSON, Collector.

A. H. OLMSTED,

CIVIL ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR.

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Office: 24 Broad Street, Bloomfield.

Residence: 478 Belleville Avenue Bloomfield N. J.

DAVID P. LYALL,

PIANO TUNER.

189 Washington Avenue, BLOOMFIELD

LOCK BOX 164.

WILLIAM H. HALL,

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AND

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OAKLAND AVENUE.

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NEWARK. 17 WEST PARK ST.

WILLIAM COLFAX

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S. SCHEUER & CO.,

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Newark, 7:10 a.m. 1:30, 3:40, 6:10 p.m.

Montclair, 7:10 a.m. 1:30, 3:40, 6:10 p.m.

Elizabeth, 7:10 a.m. 1:30, 3:40, 6:10 p.m.

Brookdale, 7:10 a.m. 1:30, 3:40, 6:10 p.m.

Greenwood Lake and intermediate points, 8 p.m.

New York mail includes N. Y. State, East and Foreign. Newark mail includes N. Y. State, South and West.

MAILS DEPART.

For N. Y., 6:10, 11:20 a.m. 1:30, 4:10, 6:40 p.m.

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